

14EAST

Year in Review 2019

Community Reporting, Multimedia Storytelling

At 14 East, much of our work is centered around in-depth reporting, longform (and award-winning) writing and multimedia storytelling. Though an online magazine, we aim to bring what we do into our community, understanding that our reporting is not only done for, but made possible by, those around us. Thus, our community is at the core of what we do.

We use public newsrooms, listening sessions and brochures to transcend the boundaries of an online magazine, making space for a two-way conversation with our community. In doing so, we don't assume our reporting matters to our community — we *know* it does, because they told us what information they needed, consulted during our reporting or collaborated with us.

Through our water testing project, we helped DePaul students test their tap water for unsafe lead levels. Through listening sessions and community conversations, we identified common questions among students, and began answering them in our water testing issue.

We also worked on collaborative reporting projects, combining 14 East's online storytelling skill set with Radio DePaul's audio production expertise to tell our stories better and more creatively.

Meanwhile, 14 East has continued to build our own award-winning podcast, 14 Speaks, published monthly issues and an annual print anthology, held professional development workshops open to all students and expanded our weekly newsletter.

Table of Contents:

- Masthead
- 14 East by the Numbers
- Water Testing Project
- Stories
- Events
- Recognition
- What's Next
- What Could Help Our Work

14 East Masthead



Faculty Advisor / Amy Merrick
Editor-in-Chief / Marissa Nelson
Managing Editor / Chris Silber
Community Engagement Editor / Francesca Mathewes

Editorial Team

Associate Editor / Patsy Newitt
Associate Editor / Sahi Padmanabhan
Associate Editor / Nikki Roberts
Associate Editor / Meredith Melland
Associate Editor / Marissa de la Cerda

Multimedia Team

Multimedia Editor / Natalie Wade
Illustrator / Jenni Holtz

Event Team

Event Coordinator / Justin Myers
Special Event Planner / Mikayla Rose Price

Community Engagement/Outreach Team

Social Media Editor / Heather Bland
Associate Social Media Editor / Melyssa Guzman
Director of Development / Cate Hoogstraten

Staff Writers

Richie Requena, Hector Cervantes and Grace Del Velcchio

14 East by the Numbers

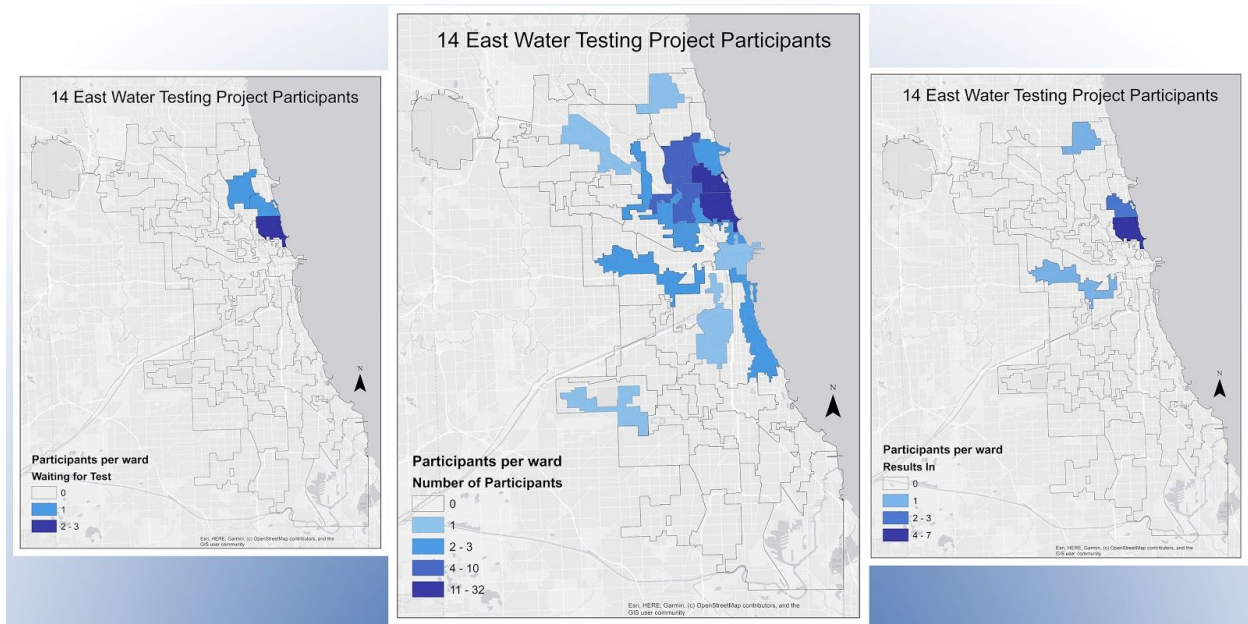
So far in 2019...

- So far this year, we have published **185 stories**, which received nearly **70,000 page views**.
- Printed **100 copies of our 2018 - 2019 print anthology**, which includes 150 colored pages and 20 of our best stories.
- Published **17 stories involving engagement reporting** — from listening sessions to location-based information — which have garnered over **8,000 page views** in total.
- Hosted **14 events in the past six months**: a community conversation, pop up magazine, the fall involvement fair, a contributor orientation, a multimedia workshop, four public newsrooms and six listening sessions.
- Produced **8 podcasts**, including six 14 Speaks audio stories and two Marissa Does Sports podcasts in collaboration with Radio DePaul Sports.
- Started a staff writer program, with 4 current staff writers in the mentoring program
- Collaborated with Radio DePaul on **two reporting projects**.
- Earned a **\$1,755 grant** for our Water Testing Project from Illinois Humanities at the People Powered Publishing Conference.
- Completed **10-month-long water testing project** that helped **92 DePaul students** test their tap water for unsafe lead levels.
- Expanded our newsletter, which is sent to **309 people each week**.
- Reached **598 followers** on Twitter, **678 likes** on Facebook and **3,340 followers** on Instagram.
- Published **8 issues**, each centered around a different topic, from the environment to the aldermanic race in Chicago.
- Produced **daily multimedia coverage** of the 2019 Chicago Teachers Union strike, visiting picket lines at **5 community areas on the South and West sides**.
- Collaborated with **17 organizations, student and professional newsrooms**, and university departments.
- Received **21 awards** — including 13 national and 8 regional. Seven of those awards won first place. This includes Best Independent Online Student Publication for the SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award.

Since we launched on May 20, 2016...

- We have published over **519 stories**
- Hosted **40 events** since January 2017, including fundraisers, poetry nights, live storytelling events, panels, listening sessions, workshops and public newsrooms.
- Earned **48 awards** — including 28 national and 20 regional. 17 of those awards won first place.

Water Testing Project



Project Highlights:

- **10-month-long** investigation
- Published **12-story water testing issue**
- Hosted **6 listening sessions** and one community event
- Helped **92 DePaul students test** their tap water
- Received a **\$1,755 grant** from Illinois Humanities and the MacArthur Foundation to fund our work

We used the free water test the City of Chicago offers to residents to test the water in the homes of **92 DePaul students**. The test is [ordered online](#) and delivered to the resident's door. So we collected addresses of DePaul students, ordered the test for them and helped guide them through the testing process.

We also held [six listening sessions](#) with six of our participants, meeting with them over coffee or at DePaul to learn about why they joined the project and what else they care about. While the focus of our project had to do with water safety, we learned that there are a lot of other things that DePaul students care about, like environmental racism, Catholicism's role at DePaul and gentrification. We also learned how students access information, how they learn about their community and what questions they had that needed answering, like what responsibilities landlords have to renters. (Which [we later reported on!](#))



Participants at 14 East's community conversation (Melody Mercado, *14 East*).

Then we hosted a community conversation, bringing **19 of our participants and community members together** to talk about water in Chicago. From the event, we learned that our community cares about responsibility (not just who is responsible, but if they are taking responsibility) and accessibility (making resources, like the test, accessible). We also found those who attend to be pretty ambivalent about the future of water in Chicago.

Stories



Jenni Holtz, 14 East

[Letting it Linger](#), [The Gorgeous Ladies of Arm Wrestling](#) and ['Halloween' Producer Jason Blum Thinks Women Don't Direct Horror Films. Is He Right?](#)

By Cody Corral

National winner for the 2019 Online Opinion & Commentary, Society of Professional Journalists

In "[Letting it Linger](#)," former managing editor Cody Corral wrote about their love for the Cranberries. More specifically, their admiration of lead singer Dolores O'Riordan on the heels of her passing. This ode to O'Riordan explores O'Riordan's vulnerability, strength and, of course, her music.

"I saw parts of myself in O'Riordan that I didn't see in Gwen Stefani or Britney Spears, whom I adored but couldn't relate to in the same way. She was emotional and delicate without sacrificing her own strength – more often than not, her power came from her vulnerability."

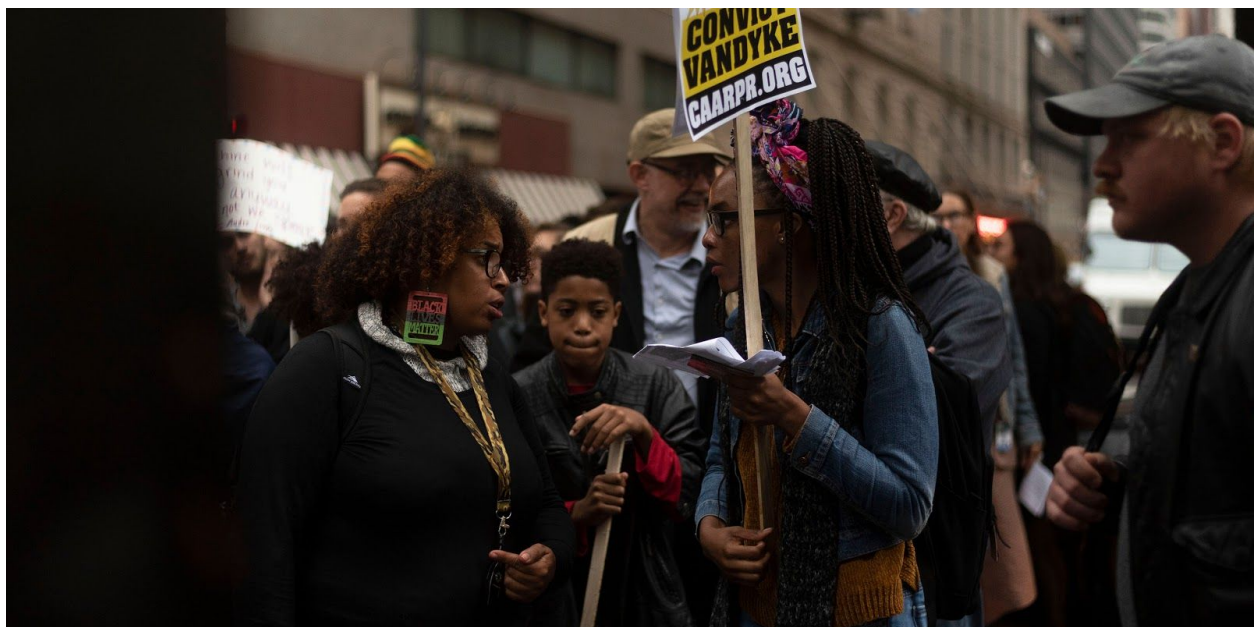
Corral wrote about the Chicago League of Lady Arm Wrestlers, or CLLAW, in "[The Gorgeous Ladies of Arm Wrestling](#)." Corral describes the competition, its rules and the characters that truly make the league what it is.

"CLLAW is an immersive theater experience that exemplifies the energy of sports and its fans through performance: trading jerseys for elaborate costumes and establishing a personal

relationship with the audience through games and raffle tickets. Some fans dress up like their favorite wrestler, or cheer them on with personalized chants.”

Corrall explores horror films and the genre’s representation of female directors in “[‘Halloween’ Producer Jason Blum Thinks Women Don’t Direct Horror Films. Is He Right?](#)” They explore what happens when stories on female horror are rarely told by women.

“What the genre needs more than anything is to take more risks to lift up the voices of women in the industry. Women are already the backbone of the genre’s basic narrative structure, one that commodifies their bodies for brutal imagery — there’s no reason women should be barred from reinventing these stories in their own ways or from their own individualized experiences.”



Cody Corrall, 14 East

[Justice for Laquan: After Van Dyke Verdict, Activists, Protesters Close Mag Mile](#)

By Madeline Happold

This story earned third place for the Best Multimedia Breaking News Story category for the national Pinnacle awards. It also won second place for Best Writing - Single News Story category for the national Catholic Press Association Student Division, and was a finalist for the Best Use of Multimedia Category for the Society of Professional Journalists Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award.

Madeline Happold's breaking news coverage of the protest that followed the Van Dyke verdict includes photos, audio clips and a video. Cody Corral, Christopher Silber and Mikayla Rose Price contributed reporting to this story.

"The crowd was moving with conviction, so fast that blink and you might miss it. It ebbed and flowed, gaining momentum as protesters moved through downtown Chicago, from City Hall up to Trump Towers and down Michigan Ave.'s Magnificent Mile. The day was grey, sticky and thick, the morning's rain evaporating off the city concrete, but the atmosphere was one of action, relief, grieving and change."



Jenni Holtz, 14 East

14 Speaks: Black Holes, Margaret Hamilton and Women in STEM

By Dylan Van Sickle and Jenni Holtz

This podcast received an honorable mention for the Best Podcast category of the national Pinnacle awards.

Dylan Van Sickle and Jenni Holtz explore the accomplishments by, and outlook for, women in STEM. It's a historical lookback, a tribute to Margaret Hamilton and an exploration of what's to come.

"Imagine going to the moon without a map or trying to land with a computer too overloaded with tasks to know which functions to prioritize. That's what two of the most famed Apollo missions faced — and would have failed to figure out — without the work of women. For the Apollo

missions, it was Margaret Hamilton — and for last week’s black hole photo, it was Dr. Katie Bouman.”



Madeline Happold, 14 East

David and Goliath: Inside DePaul Freshman David Krupa’s Campaign for 13th Ward Alderman

By Doug Klain, Madeline Happold, John Cotter, Dylan Van Sickle, Jenni Holtz and Amy Do

This was a collaborative project between 14 East and Radio DePaul. It’s a podcast and a written story about the DePaul student who ran for alderman in the 13th Ward, and an investigation into the campaign, allegations against Krupa and possible election interference by incumbent Marty Quinn’s campaign.

“How did Krupa, a 19-year-old DePaul freshman, come to be standing behind a borrowed podium, legally challenging one of Chicago’s most powerful aldermen? Why is a college freshman running for alderman, anyway? And with less than a month until election day, does he have a chance?”



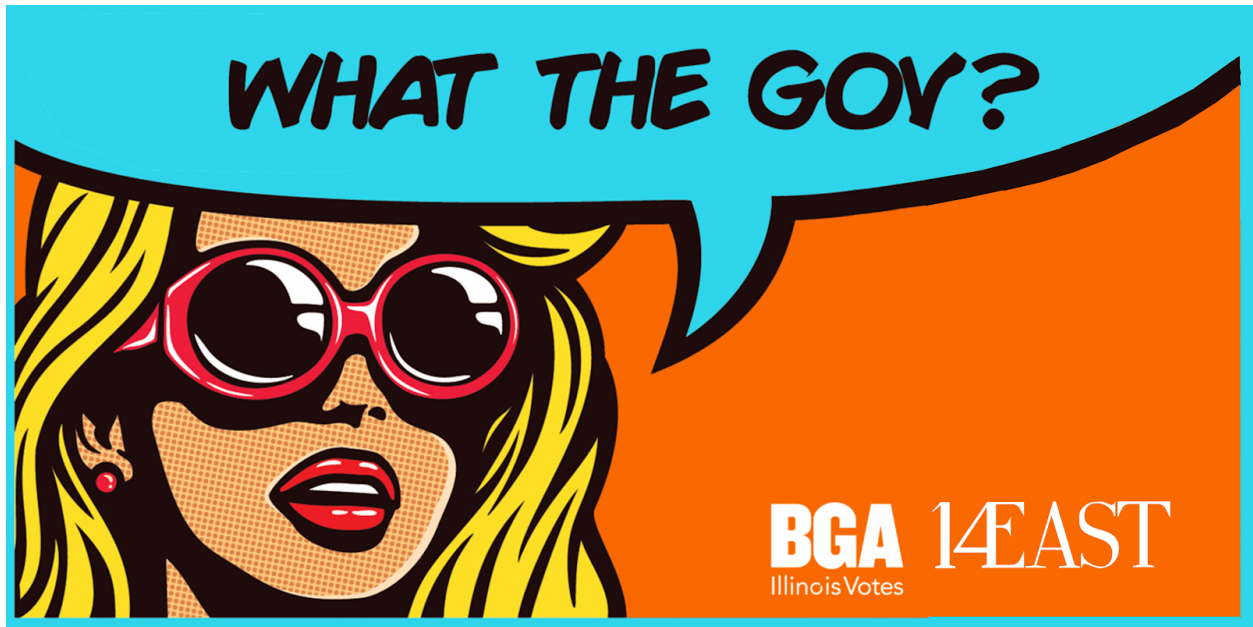
Natalie Wade, 14 East

[Sexual Harassment on the CTA Appears More Common than Reports Suggest](#)

By Marissa Nelson

This story is a nearly year-long investigation into the prevalence of sexual harassment on the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). While reporting, Marissa Nelson learned that many who experienced sexual harassment on the CTA didn't know how to report or what to expect if they did. So she [published a guide about what to expect](#). It can be saved on a person's phone home screen for quick access. This multimedia story includes data visualization, an interactive data set and map.

"While exact numbers aren't clear because sexual violence often goes [unreported](#), [studies](#) and personal anecdotes show that sexual harassment on Chicago public transportation is all too common. However, the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) attempts to prevent sexual harassment and encourage passengers to report incidents appear ineffective."



Courtesy of the BGA

[I'm New to Illinois...How Do I Vote?](#)

By Cody Corral, Marissa Nelson, Megan Stringer and Mia Sato (BGA)

This story was written in collaboration with the [Better Government Association](#) (BGA), a watchdog organization and publication in Chicago. As the gubernatorial election approached, the story explained how new residents — including college students — could register to vote in the election.

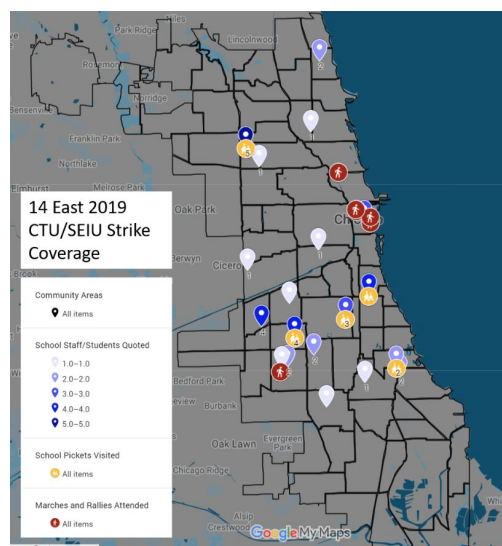
“First thing’s first: It’s not illegal to be registered to vote in multiple states. Jay Young, executive director of Common Cause Illinois, said that while it’s preferable to only be registered in one place, you’re not breaking a law if you’re on multiple voting rolls.”



[CTU Strike Daily Coverage: What's Happening at the Picket Line](#)

By 14 East Staff

14 East produced daily multimedia coverage during the 2019 Chicago Teachers Union Strike. We understood that the history of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is plagued by segregation, and that the effects are felt most in schools on the South and West sides. So we focused our reporting on those historically disinvested communities, including Woodlawn, Bronzeville and Hermosa. During our two-week-long coverage, we reported from picket lines at 5 schools in different communities and interviewed 42 CPS staff, students and protesters from 16 schools.

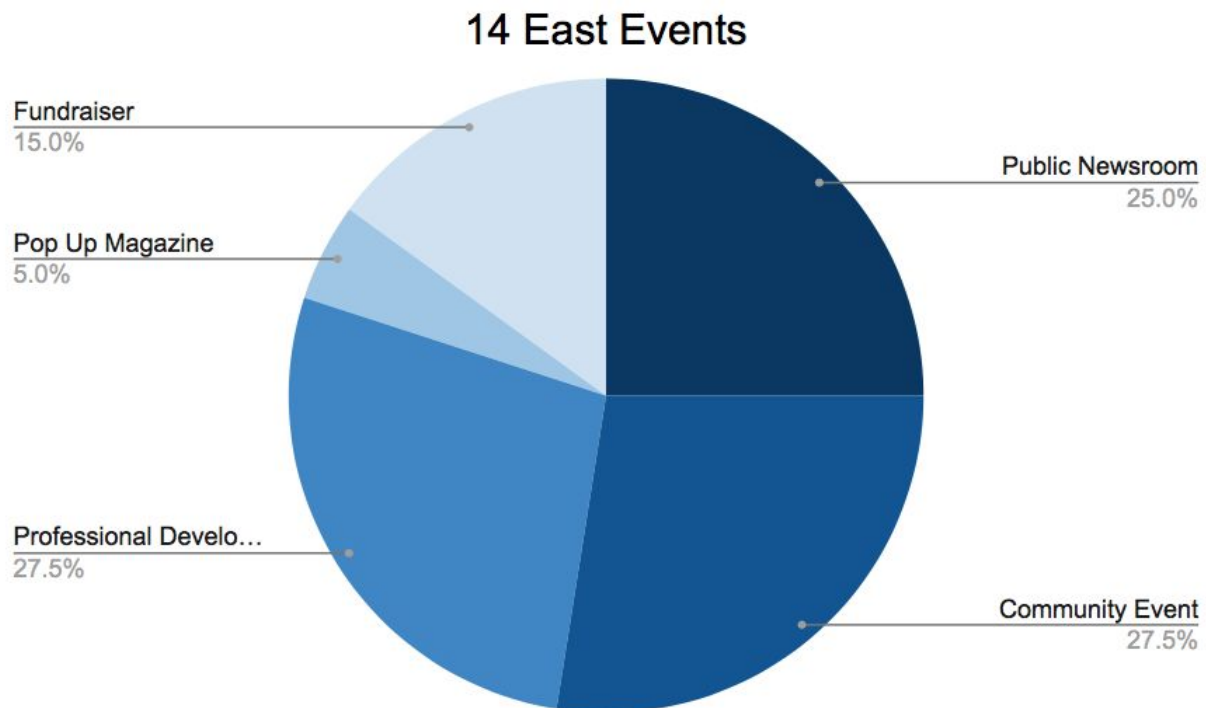


Events

At 14 East, events have always been an important part of our work as a magazine. They help bring us together with our community, allowing us to learn more about them and helping us build mutual trust and understanding. Since our founding, we have hosted **40 events**.

Event Highlights:

- **10 Public Newsrooms** in collaboration with City Bureau and DePaul's chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists.
- **11 professional development** events, including a [reporting on sexual assault workshop](#) attended by professional journalists and student reporters from Milwaukee, a media workshop and a panel on community engagement.
- **11 community events**, including listening sessions, community conversations and poetry events.
- **6 fundraising events**, also known as 14 East & Friends.
- **2 live storytelling** events.



Public Newsroom

In January 2018, we began our [Public Newsroom series](#) in collaboration with South Side journalism newslab City Bureau and DePaul's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Since then, we've held 10 public newsrooms and collaborated with the [Better Government Association](#) (BGA), [The DePaulia](#), [Radio DePaul](#), [DePaul's Office of Mission and Values](#) and the print lab [Latitude](#). We've talked about Chicago government, sexual health, digital privacy, mental wellness, voting, and [student media](#). We've taken risks, experimented with spaces and learned from a few mistakes.

The goal of the Public Newsroom series is to bring reporters and the community together to talk about issues that affect them both, critique journalism, reimagine best practices and think critically about Chicago politics and culture.



Pop-up Magazine

We host this live-storytelling event every spring, in collaboration with the Reporting for 14 East course. 14 East staff and DePaul community members perform both newly written pieces and already published stories surrounding a specific theme. Our theme in May was “transitions.” The multimedia performances include audio, video, photos, illustrations — and even dancing.

Our live storytelling event in May 2018 titled “Stories from the Archive” garnered over 50 guests. Our event in May 2019 had more than 100 guests.

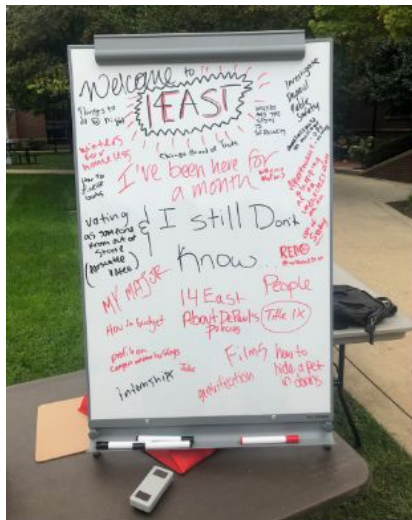


Jesus Montero, SPJ

14 East Picnic

This fall, we hosted our first 14 East Picnic in the Quad. It was an opportunity for us to meet DePaul students where they are, share our work and learn what they are interested in. We camped out on the Quad for three hours with chips, vegetables and cookies. We handed out brochures from our [water testing project](#) and flyers from [previous reporting on renters rights](#). We also share our [reporting on voting](#), particularly [how to register](#) if you are from out of state.

We also invited students to answer the question, “I’ve been here a month and I still don’t know?” on our whiteboard. We spoke with more than 30 students and filled our whiteboard with story ideas. We are now tailoring our reporting to information students requested.



Recognition + Awards

Year	Award Level	Award	Level	Organization
2018-19	Finalist	Online Pacemaker	National	Associated Collegiate Press
2018-19	Third Place	Best Multimedia Breaking News Story	National	Pinnacle / College Media Association
2018-19	Honorable Mention	Best Podcast	National	Pinnacle / College Media Association
2018-19	Honorable Mention	Short Documentary	National	College Media Association Film & Audio Festival
2018	First place	Multimedia Storytelling	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Third Place	Multimedia Storytelling	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	First Place	Best Writing - Single Story Feature	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Second Place	Best Writing - Single Story Feature	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Third Place	Best Writing - Single Story Feature	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	First Place	Best Writing - Single News Story	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Second Place	Best Writing - Single News Story	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Third Place	Best University Student Publication	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2018	Winner	Online Opinion & Commentary	National	Society of Professional Journalists
2018	Winner	Best Independent Online Student Publication	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Winner	Online Opinion & Commentary	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	Best Use of Multimedia	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	Best Podcast	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	Online Sports Reporting	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	Online Opinion & Commentary	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	In-Depth Reporting	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2018	Finalist	Best Use of Multimedia	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award

Year	Award Level	Award	Level	Organization
2017	First Place	Best Feature Story - All Categories	National	Pinnacle / College Media Association
2017	First Place	Feature Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division

2017	Second Place	Feature Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Third Place	Feature Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	First Place	Online Multimedia	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Second Place	Online Multimedia	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	First Place	News Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Second Place	News Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Honorable Mention	News Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Honorable Mention	Catholicism	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2017	Finalist	SPJ Student Program of the Year	National	Society of Professional Journalists
2017	Winner	Online Opinion & Commentary	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2017	Winner	Online Sports Reporting	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2017	Finalist	In-Depth Reporting	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2017	Finalist	Best Independent Online Student Publication	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2017	Finalist	Best New Podcast	Regional	Peter Lisagor Awards/SPJ Chicago Headline Club
Year	Award Level	Award	Level	Organization
2016	First Place	Feature Writing	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2016	First Place	Online Multimedia	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2016	Second Place	Online Multimedia	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2016	Third Place	Online Multimedia	National	Catholic Press Association Student Division
2016	Winner	Best Independent Online Student Publication	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Winner	Best Online-Only Student Publication	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Winner	Online In-Depth Reporting	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Finalist	Best Use of Multimedia	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Finalist	Best Use of Multimedia	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Finalist	Online Opinion & Commentary	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award
2016	Finalist	Online Opinion & Commentary	Regional	SPJ Region 5 Mark of Excellence Award

What's Next?

After a year of reporting, event planning, producing and community building, we're now looking to the future, setting goals for the next year and determining what our next project will be. Here's what we have planned so far.

Reporting + Projects

- January Prohibition Issue and coinciding 14 East & Friends on the 100-year anniversary of the ban on alcohol
- Collaborative reporting project about housing in Austin

Events

- Spring Public Newsroom in collaboration with Austin Weekly News about environmental racism, and other monthly Public Newsrooms
- Begin planning for CPS journalism workshop
- Live storytelling event in May

Magazine Development

- Develop multimedia contributor list
- Host monthly contributor workshops at the beginning of the new year
- Collaborate with Radio DePaul Sports and Radio DePaul
- Hire web developer

What Could Help Our Work

At 14 East, we pride ourselves on being a “scrappy” magazine. We dream big, and we make things work. We're resourceful, flexible and creative — that's how we have spent close to nothing on the 40 events we have hosted.

We think big. Our meetings are filled with wild ideas and unique project pitches. We start by thinking about what we would do if there were no limits — like hosting a fundraising gala or planning a community event to go along with every issue. Then based on time, resources and, well, reality, we figure out how to make those ideas real possibilities.

Instead of a gala, we hosted 14 East & Friends. Instead an event for every issue, we planned an annual live storytelling event.

Our current budget is \$1,000 from the College of Communication, plus website hosting and domain registration costs of about \$250 a year. Last year we received \$800 from the Student Activity Fee Board (SAF-B) toward anthology printing costs and raised another \$500 through fundraisers. Our \$1,755 grant from Illinois Humanities and the MacArthur Foundation specifically supported our water testing project.

We also have two paid student worker positions of 10 hours a week, one for our editor-in-chief and one that is shared between our managing editor and community engagement editor at 5 hours a week each. We're thankful for the funding that has helped us build our magazine and community.

There are many more projects and stories that would be possible if we had more funding for our work — and we could improve the work we *are* doing, making it more beneficial for everyone involved.

For instance, we would love to have a budget for our Public Newsroom series. This would help improve our promotion and hospitality at the event. It could also allow us to thank our partners for working with us. We'd also benefit from having funding for our engagement projects, like the 14 East picnic or listening sessions.

Additional funding goals:

- Illustrator materials
- Soundcloud paid account
- Event budget
- Money for staff reporting costs